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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following listing of all claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A multipass parser implementation encoded on at least one computer-readable medium, the multipass parser implementation product comprising:
plural miniparsers each successively operable on a respective abstract syntax tree that corresponds to an input information encoding and that includes transformations of predecessor ones, if any, of the miniparsers,
wherein respective ones of the miniparsers are limited to particular subsets of syntactic constructs to be parsed in the input information encoding.
2. (Original) The multipass parser implementation of claim 1,
wherein, for at least some of the miniparsers, the respective abstract syntax tree is an output of a respective predecessor one of the miniparsers.
3. (Original) The multipass parser implementation of claim 1,
wherein, for at least some of the miniparsers, respective input and output abstract syntax trees are separately encoded.
4. (Original) The multipass parser implementation of claim 1,
wherein the syntactic constructs are those of a programming language; and
wherein the information encoding includes code substantially in accordance therewith.
5. (Original) The multipass parser implementation of claim 1,
wherein operation of each of the miniparsers is on a substantial entirety of its respective abstract syntax tree.
6. (Original) The multipass parser implementation of claim 1,
wherein the syntactic constructs are those defined by a grammar; but
wherein none of the miniparsers individually implements the grammar.

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7. (Original) The multipass parser implementation of claim 1, wherein the syntactic constructs are those defined by a grammar; and wherein the operation of successive ones of the miniparsers corresponds to the grammar.

8. (Original) The multipass parser implementation of claim 1, wherein the plural miniparsers include:

- a comment parser;
- a delimiter parser;
- a top-level statement parser;
- a compilation unit parser; and
- a name parser.

9. (Original) The multipass parser implementation of claim 1, wherein the plural miniparsers correspond to an hierarchy of functional transformations.

10. (Original) The multipass parser implementation of claim 1, embodied as a computer program product encoded in at least one computer readable medium.

11. (Original) The multipass parser implementation of claim 10, wherein the at least one computer readable medium is selected from the set of a disk, tape or other magnetic, optical, or electronic storage medium and a network, wireline, wireless or other communications medium.

12. (Original) A software engineering tool including the plural miniparsers of claim 1.

13. (Original) A method of implementing a parser for an input information encoding, the method comprising:

- defining a succession of miniparsers each operable on a respective parse state resulting from a predecessor one of the miniparsers,
- wherein each of the miniparsers recognizes only a particular subset of syntactic constructs to be parsed in the input information encoding.

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14. (Original) The method of claim 13,
wherein operation of each successive miniparser transforms an output of a predecessor miniparser.
15. (Original) The method of claim 13,
wherein operation of each successive miniparser successively refines a parse tree that corresponds to the input information encoding.
16. (Original) The method of claim 13,
wherein operation of each successive miniparser produces a distinct parse tree that represents a successive refinement corresponding to the input information encoding.
17. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
executing the miniparsers in succession.
18. (Original) The method of claim 13,
wherein the syntactic constructs are those of a programming language; and
wherein the input information encoding includes code substantially in accordance therewith.
19. (Original) The method of claim 13,
wherein a first executed one of the miniparsers implements a lexer.
20. (Original) The method of claim 13,
wherein a first executed one of the miniparsers operates on a lexed encoding corresponding to the input information.
21. (Original) The method of claim 13, applied to a compilation unit of program code,
wherein an earlier executed one of the miniparsers associates comment tokens of a compilation unit with respective non-comment tokens; and
wherein a later executed one of the miniparsers matches grouping tokens.

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22. (Original) The method of claim 21,
wherein a still later executed one of the miniparsers segregates tokens into top-level
statements.

23. (Original) A method of parsing an information encoding, the method comprising:
performing plural successive transformations, each successive one of the transformations
operating on an abstract syntax tree that is a result of a predecessor one of the
transformations,
each of the successive transformations handling only a subset of syntactic constructs to
be recognized in the information encoding.

24. (Original) A computer program product encoded in at least one computer readable
medium and comprising:
functional encodings of at least two miniparsers, a first one of the miniparsers executable
to transform a first parse tree into a second parse tree and the second one of the
miniparsers executable to transform the second parse tree into a third parse tree;
each of the at least two miniparsers recognizing only a subset of syntactic constructs to be
parsed in an information encoding to which the first, second and third parse trees
correspond.

25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 24,
wherein the at least one computer readable medium is selected from the set of a disk, tape
or other magnetic, optical, or electronic storage medium and a network, wireline,
wireless or other communications medium.

26. (Original) An apparatus comprising:
encoded information substantially in accordance with a grammar;
multipass means for performing plural successive transformations on the encoded
information, each successive transformation handling only a subset of syntactic
constructs in accordance with the grammar.